

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-01 SP-02 USIE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8243

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV SHUM CGEN US CI

SUBJECT: CHILEAN MEDIA REACTION MOFFET/LETELIER CASE

1. FEBRUARY 23 SANTIAGO PRESS FRONT PAGE HEADS: "TWO CHILEAN OFFICERS" NAMED BY US DO NOT EXIST (GOC-OWNED "EL CRONISTA"), "OFFICIALS ACCUSED BY US DO NOT EXIST" ("LA TERCERA"); "WILLIAMS" AND "ROMERAL" NOT IN ARMED FORCES ("EL MERCURIO"). STORIES PRINT OFFICIAL STATEMENTS BY ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE THAT WILLIAMS AND ROMERAL NEVER SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES. AN OFFICIAL OF THE CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION REGISTRY IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT THERE IS NO ONE NAMED "ROMERAL" ON RECORD. A GOC OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN STATED THAT NEWS OF THE LETTERS ROGATORY CAUGHT THE GOVERNMENT BY SURPRISE (SIC) AND THAT A FULL INVESTIGATION WILL BE UNDERTAKEN.
2. THE PRESS ALSO QUOTES THE JANITOR AT THE ADDRESS GIVEN FOR WILLIAMS AS STATING HE NEVER LIVED THERE, AND PRINTS PHOTOS SHOWING THAT ROMERAL'S ALLEGED ADDRESS DOES NOT EXIST.
3. NEWS ITEMS REFLECT CONFUSION OVER THE PROCESS BEING FOLLOWED, WITH CONFLICTING VERSIONS THAT LETTERS ROGATORY GIVEN CAUAS IN US AND OTHER SAYING EMBASSY HERE WILL TRANSMIT

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THEM TO FOREIGN MINISTRY. THE CHILEAN DCM IN WASHINGTON (AMENABAR) IS QUOTED AS STATING PAIR NOT OF RECORD AT HIS EMBASSY AND SUGGESTING THAT US EMBASSY SANTIAGO OUGHT TO EXPLAIN WHY IT ISSUED VISAS TO PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN CAUGHT USING FRAUDULENT IDENTIFICATION IN THE RECENT PAST.

4. TWO PAPERS SAY "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" (PRESUMABLY

FOREIGN MINISTRY) NOTED "STRANGE COINCIDENCE" THAT LETELIER CASE RESURFACES WHILE UNHRC IS DISCUSSING CHILE IN GENEVA. (COMMENT: WE WILL CATEGORICALLY DENY ANY SUCH LINKAGE SHOULD WE BE QUERIED AND POINT TO STATEMENTS USDEL HRC, REPORTED EXTENSIVELY HERE, ON NEED FOR NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS.)

5. WITH REGARD TO ROLE OF US PROSECUTING ATTORNEY PROPPER, PRESS QUOTES "LEGAL SOURCES" AS STATING THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES COULD PROPPER INTERROGATE THE INDIVIDUALS DIRECTLY. AT MOST HE COULD PRESENT WRITTEN QUESTIONS WHICH WOULD BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH A CHILEAN LAWYER.

6. SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT EYZAGUIRRE IS REPORTED AS STATING THAT ONCE HE RECEIVED THE LETTERS ROGATORY HE WILL TRANSMIT THEM TO A CRIMINAL COURT OF THE FIRST INSTANCE FOR THAT JUDGE'S ACTION, FOR WHICH THERE IS NO FIXED TIME LIMIT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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